

10942 WO

13

Claims

1. A method of absorbing water vapour and of combating  
malodour within a cavity, the method comprising the  
5 step of introducing into the cavity a package  
comprising a wall material which retains particulate  
contents and is permeable to water vapour, the  
contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an  
odour-combating compound, and a filler comprising  
10 starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a  
cellulose derivative, wherein the cavity is the  
interior of an article of footwear or a storage space  
within an article of furniture.
- 15 2. A method of absorbing water vapour and of combating  
malodour within a cavity, the method comprising the  
step of introducing into the cavity a package  
comprising a wall material which retains particulate  
contents and is permeable to water vapour, the  
20 contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an  
odour-combating compound, and a filler which acts as a  
thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the  
package, wherein the cavity is the interior of an  
article of footwear or a storage space within an  
25 article of furniture.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the  
contents further comprise a filler which is an  
alkaline compound able to neutralise foot acids.
- 30 4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said alkaline  
compound is sodium bicarbonate.

10942 WO

14

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the dehumidifying compound is capable of absorbing at least its own weight of moisture.
- 5 6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the dehumidifying compound is a water absorbing metal salt or oxide.
- 10 7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the dehumidifying compound is selected from calcium chloride and magnesium chloride.
- 15 8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the dehumidifying compound is present in an amount of at least 10wt% of the weight of the dry contents.
- 20 9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the dehumidifying compound is present in an amount of no more than 95wt% of the weight of the dry contents.
10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the odour-combating compound is a zeolite.
- 25 11. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the odour-combating compound is present in an amount at least 0.5wt% of the weight of the dry contents.
- 30 12. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the odour-combating compound is present in an amount of no more than 25wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

10942 WO

15

13. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the filler comprises starch or a starch derivative.
14. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein  
5 the filler constitutes at least 10wt% of the weight of the dry contents.
15. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein  
10 the filler constitutes no more than 80wt% of the weight of the dry contents.
16. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the contents further comprise a fragrance.
- 15 17. A package comprising a wall material which retains particulate contents and is permeable to water vapour, the contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound and a filler comprising starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a  
20 cellulose derivative, in admixture.
18. A package comprising a wall material which retains particulate contents and is permeable to water vapour, the contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an  
25 odour-combating compound and a filler which acts as a thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the package, in admixture.
19. A particulate composition comprising a dehumidifying  
30 compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler comprising starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a cellulose derivative, in admixture.

10942 WO

16

20. A particulate composition comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler which acts as a thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the package, in admixture.

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21. A method of absorbing water vapour and combating malodour within a cavity, or a package or particulate composition for the same purpose, substantially as described herein.

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